

Anglo-Cornish Land Mines

**ACCOUNT of the present State of the Copper-
Works in CORNWALL and the ISLE of ANGLE-
SEA, in which the great National Advantages that
will be derived from giving all possible Encourage-
ment to this beneficial Branch of Trade are clearly
stated and submitted to the Consideration of every
Gentleman who is a Well-wisher to the Commer-
cial Interests of his Country.**



IT is a Maxim established on the Authority of the most celebrated Political and Commercial Writers, that whatever is recovered from the Sea, or dug out of the Bowels of the Earth, is an Addition to the natural Wealth of a State: Upon this Principle, Public Encouragement has been given under every well regulated Government, to Draining of Lands inundated by the Sea, and to the Discovery and Working of Mines.

The British Legislature, ever attentive to the Commercial Interests of the Kingdom, so far back as the Year 1710, granted a very considerable Advantage to the Owners of the Copper and Tin Mines in Cornwall and Devonshire, by allowing a Drawback of the Duties on Coals consumed in Smelting the Ores; and as a further Encouragement to the said Owners, by an Act passed the Fourteenth of George the Second, the Allowance of the Drawback was extended to Coals used in Fire-Engines for Draining the Water from the Mines in Cornwall.

These Grants, operating as Bounties, produced the same good Effects, by augmenting considerably the Quantity of Ore dug from the said Mines annually, and consequently employing a greater Number of industrious Poor to the Benefit of the State.

It appears from an authentic Account of the Produce of the Cornish Mines for the last Fifty Years, that the Increase, owing to the aforesaid Encouragements (but principally to the last) has been in the Proportion of *Nine to One*; for in Twenty Years, ended in 1732, the Average annual Produce in Ore had not exceeded Three Thousand Tons; whereas, from 1732 to 1752, they produced annually, upon an Average, about Six Thousand Tons of Ore; and in the Ten Years, from 1762 to 1772, about Twenty-three Thousand Tons; and from 1772 to 1782, about Twenty-eight Thousand Tons.

The great Demand for Copper, since it has been generally used in the Navy for Sheathing Ships of War, has made the Production of this Metal in our own Country (without being obliged to have Recourse to Foreign Mines) an Object of the first Consideration.

It likewise appears by undoubted Authority, that the Builders and Owners of Merchant Ships are so fully convinced of the superior Advantages of Copper Sheathing, instead of Fir, especially in the African and West India Trades, that at Liverpool and other Ports, they are bringing it into general Practice, as the only effectual Security against Worms, and other Destroyers of Ships Bottoms, as well as for keeping the Bottoms clean, and thereby enabling them to sail faster than with foul Bottoms: Under these Circumstances, it must be the highest Point of Political Wisdom to extend the same Encouragement, that has made the Cornish Mines flourish, to all other Copper Works throughout the Kingdom, wherever situated.

Indeed it is in the Spirit of the British Constitution to give *equal Advantages and Encouragement* to all the Subjects of the State, without *Partiality or Distinction*, who are engaged in the laudable Attempt to increase the natural, and the relative or acquired Riches of the State, the latter of which is produced by the Labour of the People.

True Policy also dictates that the raw Materials for all useful Arts and Manufactures should be as free as possible from all Duties, Inland Excises and Taxes, as well as from all *Monopolies and exclusive Privileges*.

Because the great National Object must ever be to work up the raw Materials to the highest State of Improvement they will admit of, and to bring them, so improved, on the cheapest Terms to Market.

In the Case of Mines then, it is evident, that the natural Riches of the State are increased in Proportion to the Quantity of Ores raised from the Bowels of the Earth.

And that the acquired or relative Wealth of the Nation will be augmented in Proportion to the Number of People employed in raising the Ore, and in extracting and working up the pure Metal.

It follows next, that if no exclusive Privileges are granted, nor any Monopolies suffered, the Metal will come to Market on the cheapest Terms, and that the Value cannot be raised at the Will and Pleasure of particular Proprietors of Copper Works, or of Associated Companies.

Under these Ideas, the Owners and Lessees of the Copper and Lead Mines in the Isle of Anglesea, after having worked their Mines several Years under heavy Disadvantages, and after having reduced the Price at Market, notwithstanding these Disadvantages, thought proper to apply to Parliament for an Act to extend to them, the Drawbacks allowed to the Owners of the Cornish Mines; and a Bill for that Purpose passed the House of Commons about Three Years ago, but failed in the House of Lords, owing to some Objections made by Lord Paget, which have since been removed; and his Lordship, fully convinced of the Public Utility of the Measure, now gives it his Approbation.

The said Owners and Lessees of the Anglesea Mines have therefore renewed their Application to Parliament, by Petition delivered to the House of Commons on the 3d of February last; and this Petition stands referred to a Committee, which, on the Motion of Mr. Rosewarne, one of the Members for *Truro in Cornwall*, and a Proprietor of Copper and Tin Mines and Smelting Works in that County, is to be an open Committee, at which any Member of the House may vote; and it will sit for the first Time on

An Opposition in the Committee on the Petition, and also to the Bill, being suggested, it becomes necessary for the Owners and Lessees of the Anglesea Mines to request the Attendance and Support of every candid Friend to the true Commercial Interests of the Nation, and for the following Reasons:

Because they can produce undeniable Vouchers to prove, that notwithstanding the Disadvantages they have hitherto laboured under, their Works have been of great Public Utility in several Respects.

The Anglesea Mines
In the first Place, they have produced annually Forty Thousand Tons of Copper Ore, and upwards, and for the last Four or Five Years they have extracted therefrom Two Thousand Tons of Metal annually, and upwards.

Secondly, These Works have given Maintenance to more than Thirteen Thousand industrious poor People; and, if the said Disadvantages were removed, might give Bread to double that Number: But otherwise, as the Mines become deeper, and the Charges increase, the small Profits heretofore made, will be sunk in Expences, and the Proprietors discouraged from the further prosecuting those Works which have already proved so useful to the Public.

Thirdly, The Produce of the said Works being brought to Market, has, of late Years, reduced the Prices full 15 or 20 per Cent. which had before been raised very high by the Associated Companies, upon finding the Demand for Copper for Sheathing was increased, and that it was also in considerable Demand for covering of Houses, and other useful Purposes, to which it has been applied only within these few Years.

Because they can likewise make it appear that the poor Quality of the Copper and Lead-Ores, raised from the Anglesea Mines, compared with the Richness of the Cornish Ores,

Ores, is in itself a sufficient Disadvantage, without adding to it the heavy Burden of paying Duty for Coals; while the Owners of the Cornish Mines are allowed the Drawbacks. And that even admitting the same Privileges were granted in Favour of the Anglesea Mines, those of Cornwall, owing to the Difference in the Price of Coals and of Freight, will still have an Advantage in the Estimate of their Expences.

Because it will be a great Discouragement to all other Persons desirous to discover and work Mines in the Isle of Anglesea, and other Parts of the Kingdom, having no Coals but what pay Duty, if they find that the Owners and Lessees of the Anglesea Mines, after having expended large Sums of Money to bring their Mines to such a State of Production as to become a National Benefit, should be impeded in their further Progress, either by the high Price and Duty on Coals, or by being obliged to continue the heavy Expence of sending such poor Ores to a considerable Distance to be smelted, where Coals are cheap and pay no Duty. Or if they should be obliged to purchase at a high Price, and pay Duty for the Coals necessary to be consumed in Fire-Engines, that must now, on Account of the Depth of some of their Mines, be unavoidably erected to draw off the Water, which is already become too powerful for every other Method they can use for that Purpose, while the Cornish Miners enjoy the Privilege of the above Drawbacks, both for Smelting their Ores and Draining their Mines.

BECAUSE as the Demand for Copper daily increases, the Price will be considerably raised upon the Public, owing to the Monopoly; neither will a sufficient Quantity be produced to satisfy the Demand for Home Consumption.

Whereas if the Allowances of the Drawbacks is extended to the Owners and Lessees of the Anglesea Mines, in the same Manner as to those of Cornwall; and it is understood that the British Legislature will give general and equal Encouragement to all Persons employed in such beneficial Works; much greater Quantities still of that valuable Article, Copper, will be produced annually; and it will become an Article of *Exportation* on better Terms than the Foreign Markets can be supplied from Hungary, Sweden, or any other Country: "An Object this of the highest Importance to the Commercial Interests of Great Britain, "at a Time when every Nerve must be strained to secure and extend her Commercial Intercourse with other Countries."

Finally, Let it be remarked that the Grant of the Privileges requested by the Petitioners will not in any Respect diminish the *Revenue derived from the Duties on Coals*; for the Owners and Lessees of the Anglesea Mines never have, or can be able to import Coals into that Island, and pay Duty for them, as their Works cannot support the Expence.

A Comparative View of the Expence of Coals in Anglesea and Cornwall.

ANGLESEA.	L. s. d.	CORNWALL.	L. s. d.
The nearest and cheapest Coal is at Liverpool, and costs there per neat Ton, 7	0 7 6	Coals shipped at Swansea, per neat Ton,	0 4 2
Freight to Anglesea, -	0 5 0	Freight to St. Ives, -	0 7 0
Duty and Port Charges, -	0 6 0	Port Charges, -	0 1 0
	0 18 6	Balance on every Ton, -	0 6 4
			0 18 6

Expences of Freights only to make 20 Tons of Metal.

L. s. d.	L. s. d.
Of the Anglesea Ore, yielding but 1 in 20, there must go 400 Tons. The Freight to Lancashire 9s. per Ton, 180 0 0	Of the Cornish Ore, as it yields 2½ in 20, there need go but 160 Tons, the Freight of which to Swansea is only 5s. per Ton, -
180 0 0	40 0 0
	140 0 0
	180 0 0

By reason of that vast Expence of Carriage, and the present Duties on Coal brought into Anglesea, the Owners of the Mines there are obliged to burn their Ores in the Island, whereby they lose One-Third of the Metal, which might be saved, had they Coals Duty free, like the Cornish Miners.

